

J.C.M. 30th Sep. 1863

CHANGE OF THE DISTRICT-TOWN OF THE DISTRICT OF KAMOURASKA.

The District of Kamouraska comprises the Counties of Kamouraska and Temiscouata. The District-town ought not therefore to be at the centre of one, but as near as possible to the centre of the two Counties. It ought also to be one of the most important villages of the District. Two localities contend for that honor, ST. LOUIS de Kamouraska and FRASERVILLE in Rivière du Loup. The first of these two places is situated at the centre of the County of Kamouraska ; the second is close to the boundary line separating the two counties.

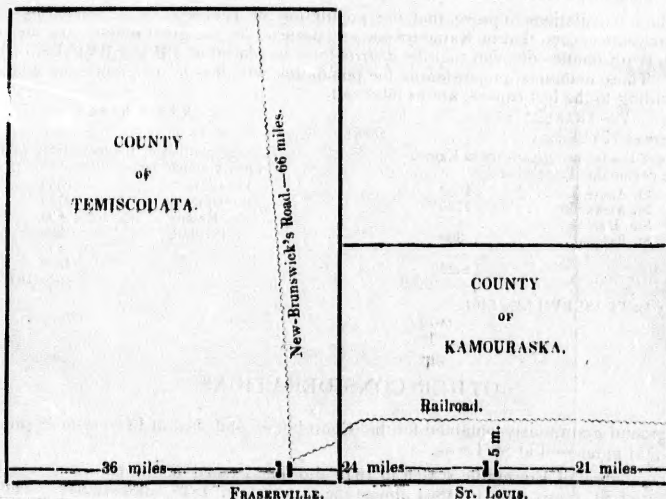
In 1846, when the District of Kamouraska was formed, a Report of the Legislative Assembly, recommended Rivière du Loup, the parish which includes the village of Fraserville, as the District-town. (See Appendix of 1846, vol. V, letter I, English edition). In 1849 the County of Temiscouata was included in that of Rimouski ; it then was already contemplated to make of this last county a district by itself distinct and separate from that of Kamouraska.

The member for Rimouski, fearing no doubt that the choice of Rivière du Loup as the District-town would prevent the proclamation and setting apart of Rimouski, joined the member for Kamouraska in demanding, and notwithstanding the above report, they obtained the selection of St. LOUIS de Kamouraska situate at the centre of the county of that name, as the District-town of the District of Kamouraska.

Inspectors of Jails and Grand Jurors of the District have since often recommended its removal to the village of FRASERVILLE in Rivière du Loup.

These recommendations and the numerous petitions presented to the Government on that subject have, up to this time, received for answer that it was impossible to incur the expense of erecting new buildings for a Court-house and Jail at FRASERVILLE when they already existed at Kamouraska.

These buildings no longer exist : they have been lately destroyed by fire : and therefore there remains but to decide upon the respective merits of the two localities, which will at the next session contend for the honor of being the capital of the District.



10. As to distance and transport ;

DISTANCE—

From the upper extremity of the district to
ST. LOUIS (with railroad).....21 miles. FRASERVILLE (with railroad) . 45 miles.

From the lower extremity of the district to
ST. LOUIS (36 of which without railroad) 60 miles. FRASERVILLE (without railroad) 36 miles.

Difference..... 39 miles. 9 miles.

Against ST. LOUIS in favor of FRASERVILLE, 30 miles.

From the southern extremity of Temiscouata where there are important and rapidly increasing settlements to
ST. LOUIS (66 of which without railroad) 90 miles.
FRASERVILLE (without railroad)..... 66 miles.

Difference against ST. LOUIS..... 24

COST OF TRANSPORT—

From the lower extremity of the district to, and back :

	ST. LOUIS.	FRASERVILLE.
1st class	\$4.50 (1)	\$2.00
2nd class	4.35 (1)	2.00

From the establishments on Lake Temiscouata to, and back :

	ST. LOUIS.	FRASERVILLE.
1st class	\$6.50 (1)	\$3.00
2nd class	6.35 (1)	3.00

From the upper extremity of the district to, and back :

	ST. LOUIS.	FRASERVILLE.
1st class	\$1.15 (1)	\$1.70
2nd class	1.00 (1)	0.90 (2)

N. B.—Difference in classes exists in railroad alone.

20. Population :

	1846.	1851.	1861.
County of Kamouraska	16419	19375	21058
County of Temiscouata	11005	14449	18561

The difference which in 1846 was 4414 has reduced in 1861 to 2499.

Increase..... From 1846 to 1851. From 1851 to 1861.

Kamouraska, 18 per cent. 8 5/8 per cent.

Temiscouata, 31 1/2 per cent. 28 1/2 per cent.

The population of Temiscouata in the first period increased 13 1/2 per cent faster then that of Kamouraska, and in the second period 19 1/2 per cent. Taking the increase to progress at the same rate, a supposition which the above figures shows to be unfair for Temiscouata, the population of the two counties will next census (1871) be

Temiscouata	23517
Kamouraska	22892

But these calculations to prove that the population of Temiscouata although less in 1861 will in four years exceed that of Kamouraska are useless, as the great majority of the population of the two Counties demand that the *district-town* be placed at **FRASERVILLE** in Rivière du Loirp. These demands, proportioning the population with that of the proprietors who signed them according to the last census, are as follows :

For FRASERVILLE.

All the County of Temiscouata	18561
Portions of the following parishes in Kamouraska demanding Fraserville :	
St. André	1659
St. Alexandre	1735
Ste. Hélène	635
St. Paschal	300
	4329
	22890

For KAMOURASKA.

The County of Kamouraska	21058
Less the portions of the parishes in said County which demand Fraserville :	
St. André	1659
St. Alexandre	1735
Ste. Hélène	635
St. Paschal	300
	4329
	16729

Majority for FRASERVILLE—6161.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

The ground gratuitously obtained for the Court-house and Jail at Fraserville is double the extent of that purchased at St. Louis.

The population of Fraserville which in 1849 did not exceed 500 inhabitants was 1210 in 1861. That of St. Louis was in 1861 almost the same as in 1849, namely 842. The Grand Trunk railroad has its terminus at Fraserville and passes at 5 miles from St. Louis. Fraserville has a large, good and safe harbour for vessels of the heaviest tonnage. St. Louis has none. Fraserville possesses a telegraph office ; there is none in all the County of Kamouraska ; and at one of the last terms of the Criminal Court a messenger had to be sent from St. Louis to Fraserville, distance of 24 miles, to telegraph to Quebec for an advocate to go down and conduct

(1) In these prices the vehicle from St. Paschal to St. Louis and back is put to 75c, but when roads are bad it rises to sometimes as much as \$2.00 and early in the spring, and late in the fall the roads get so bad that it becomes impossible to obtain vehicles of any sort, and the distance of 5 miles between the two places has to be walked across fields.

(2) The Grand Trunk terminus being in the village of Fraserville, less than one mile from the church, second class never takes vehicles.

some important crown business. Fraserville prides in several good hotels, one of which is inferior to none out of the large cities; St. Louis has no establishment deserving that title. A magnificent river crosses Fraserville and offers within the village several valuable water powers; merchantable timber and fire-wood may there be easily procured and at a low price; quarries of building and lime stone exist within the village. Soft water can scarcely be obtained at St. Louis; timber, fire-wood and building materials in general command there exorbitant prices.

Fraserville is a Military depot by the Militia Act, and has long been used as such by the Imperial Government. At Fraserville is one of the piers constructed by Government at a cost of £39,536; and also the terminus of the splendid and costly road made by the Province and which is the only communication by land between Canada and New-Brunswick and the eastern part of the State of Maine. Besides that afforded by the Grand Trunk, Fraserville in summer has constant and regular communications by steamboats with the Saguenay and Quebec. Fraserville possesses amongst other industrial establishment of every description, a foundry, a tannery of considerable size, a manufacture of black leather, a carding, fulling and pressing mills, a dye house, one of the largest and finest flour mills of Lower Canada, valuable and extensive saw mills. It boasts of two churches, one of the Catholic and the other of the Protestants denominations. The Catholic yet unfinished has already cost £7,000.

Fraserville is the only place from Quebec to Metis where there is a British population. It is the center of an important and rapidly increasing commerce with New Brunswick, the State of Maine, the Saguenay and even with part of the inhabitants of Kamouraska.

To conclude let us say that the County of Kamouraska, the old settlements of which are, it is admitted, rich and prosperous, possesses little or no wild land worth settling; that its inhabitants have formed associations to promote emigration from their parishes to the Saguenay; that they leave in considerable number for the Saguenay, Lake St. John and even for the County of Temiscouata; and that some of them lately petitioned for the survey and partition of Townships in Temiscouata: whilst on the other hand more than three fourths of the County of Temiscouata is yet to be settled, that Witworth, Viger, Denonville, Begon, Armand et Demers, the only townships in that County yet surveyed, and the Seigniories of Temiscouata and Madawaska which extend sixty miles in the interior of the same county are being opened up and settled with rapidity by, amongst others, emigrants from the Counties of Kamouraska and l'Islet, and Canadians returning from the United States and Madawaska.

Fraserville, 28th January 1863.

J. B. POULIOT,

Mayor of Temiscouata.

JOS. EUS. HUDON, M. D.,

WM. HAYWARD,

J. A. ROY,

ELZ. PELLETIER, C. M.,

L. G. CASALT,

ELIE ANGERS, N. P.,

BENJ. DIONNE, Lieut. C. M.,

L. A. DUBÉ,

L. RINFRET, M. D.,

G. N. BEAULIEU, N. P.,

JOS. LEVEQUE,

THOS. JONES, N. P.,

E. FRASER.